BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

A Monograph of the Silurian Fossils of the Girvan District in Ayrshire. By H. A. Nicholson, M.D. &c., and R. Etheridge, Jun., Esq., F.G.S., &c. Fasciculus III. 8vo. London and Edinburgh: Blackwood & Son, 1880.

This part completes the first volume of a first-rate palæontological work, the result of enthusiastic labour on the part of the authors, who are fully conversant with their subject. Supplemental matter (derived mainly from new collections made in Ayrshire, and partly from further knowledge acquired in the progress of the work) forms a large part of this Fasciculus, namely the chapters on some of the fossil Protozoa, Cœlenterata (tabulate corals), and Crustacea, from Girvan. Some Annelidan remains, and several so-called "Worm-tracks," or trails and marks due to Crustaceans, Mollusks, and other animals besides Worms (as the authors now recognize them), are treated of; and various Echinoderms (Asteroidea and Crinoidea) are carefully described. These fossils are well illustrated in nine plates. The printing, paper, and plates are good. A careful index for the volume is appended; and altogether the authors may well be proud of their elegant and useful volume.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the Existence of a Reptile of the Ophidian Type in the Beds with Ostrea columba, *of the Charente.* By M. H. E. Sauvage.

The Ophidian type, the maximum development of which is at the present epoch, seemed to make its first appearance at the base of the Tertiary, in the genera *Palæophis* and *Paleryx*, discovered by Owen in the London Clay. Fossil snakes, however, were known only by a few rare species found at Sheppey, in the phosphorites of Quercy, and in the Miocene of Sansan. Gervais had figured (but without giving it a name) the vertebra of an Ophidian derived from the sandstones which, at the island of Aix, are above the Cretaceous lignitiferous clays. M. Trémaux de Rochebrune, has since collected vertebræ which enable us to assert the presence of the serpent type as long ago as the Cenomanian epoch, in the Carentonian stage, the sands with *Ostrea columba* of the forest of Basseau in the Charente.

These vertebræ, which belong to the middle region of the body, are 0·013 metre high and 0·014 metre long, and indicate an animal of about 3 metres. The length is equal to the breadth at the level of the costal apophysis; so that the vertebra is strong and thickset. The articular condyle is supported by a very short neck; the articular cavity is circular, such as we find in the Boedonians. The neural canal is narrow, as in the Crotalians; and its section is triangular. The anterior face is broad, the diapophysis and zygosphene projecting but little. As in the Typhlopians, the parapophysis is reduced to a feeble tubercle, which joins with the diapophysis by a prominent line; the zygapophysis is inclined downwards, backwards, and inwards. The Boas and Pythons have the tubercle for the insertion of the rib placed very near the anterior margin of